



March 22, 2023

ELECTRONIC MAIL

Co-Chair DeLena Johnson
Co-Chair Bryce Edgmon
Co-Chair Neal Foster
House Finance Committee

Re: Support for State Primacy over CWA Section 404 Dredge & Fill Program

Dear House Finance Committee Co-Chairs:

The Alaska State Home Building Association (ASHBA) is a non-profit trade organization that represents the residential construction industry in Alaska. The organization serves as a resource for home builders, contractors, and other professionals in the housing industry, providing education, advocacy, and networking opportunities.

ASHBA wishes to express its strong support for Alaska to assume primacy over the Clean Water Act's Section 404 dredge and fill program. This program is essential for protecting the quality of our state's waters, and we believe that Alaska is well-equipped to take on this responsibility.

While the Clean Water Act is a federal law, it is designed to work in tandem with states to achieve its goals. As residents of this state, we are confident in the state's ability to effectively administer the program and ensure that all activities related to dredging and filling are conducted in a manner that is consistent with the goals of the Clean Water Act. By assuming primacy over the program, Alaska will be able to tailor the program to meet the unique needs of our state's waters and provide greater flexibility to businesses and individuals seeking permits.

Furthermore, by assuming primacy over the program, Alaska will be able to exercise greater control over the allocation of resources and provide a more streamlined and efficient permit process. This will not only benefit businesses and individuals seeking permits, but also help to ensure that our state's waters are protected from the negative impacts of dredging and filling activities.

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ASHBA members understand that assuming primacy over the Section 404 dredge and fill program will require a significant commitment of time and resources on the part of the state. However, we believe that this is a critical investment that will benefit our state's residents and the environment for years to come.

We urge the legislature to take action to enable the state to assume primacy over the Clean Water Act Section 404 dredge and fill program and work with the federal government, local communities, and other stakeholders to ensure the protection of Alaska's unique and valuable wetlands and waterbodies.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Eric Visser, President
Alaska State Home Building Association

Cc: Members of the House Finance Committee